sleeve of elastomer but rather uses a single bracket for the bearing to support and align the bearing. Thus, Applicant's invention is not anticipated by Gruber in that Applicant's invention provides alignment without the need for a separate sleeve disclosed in Gruber. Claims 2, 4-6 and 9 are dependent upon claim 1 and thus also believed allowable over Gruber for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

In item 4 of the Office Action, Claims 11, 12, 14, 17 and 18 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Rossi et al. (France Publication No. 2 545 664). Applicant contends that claim 11 is not anticipated by Rossi. Rossi discloses the use of a **polyamide material containing chopped glass fibers** for the two rigid supports. Claim 11 of the present invention refers to an **elastomeric** material being at least a portion of the bearing bracket. According to D.W.Van Krevelen, Properties of Polymers, 2nd edition, p. 25, elastomers are "soft and flexible rubbery solids". The material for the supports in Rossi are not considered soft and rubbery, thus, Applicant's invention is not anticipated by Rossi, as Rossi does not disclose an element of the present invention. Claims 12, 14, 17 and 18 are dependent from claim 11 and thus believed to be in allowable condition for the reasons stated regarding claim 11. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

35 USC § 103 (a):

In item 2 of the Office Action, page 5, claims 7 and 8 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gruber et al. in view of Rossi. Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled making the rejections to these claims moot.

In item 3 of the Office Action, page 5, claims 15 and 16 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rossi in view of McGinley (U.S. Patent No. 1,220,991). Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled making the rejections to these claims moot.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant notes the allowable subject matter of claims 10, 19 and 20.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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